

From the Mailbox

By Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald
The headlines read "POLICE OFFICER SHOT" . . . This will be read and quickly passed over by millions. But there are some of us who feel this very deeply and attach a deeper significance to this taking of a young offi-

cers life by a criminal who took a gun in his hand in defiance of the law and in defiance of society and all that is decent.

Richard Kent was a fine officer. I am privileged to say that I knew him. The criminal who shot him had a long

record of arrests and was on probation. This is usually the case. We have thousands like him being turned loose daily to prey on society and helpless victims. . . . Turned loose because he has paid his debt to society as prescribed by law? . . . No . . . turned loose because probation is something which is automatic . . . The theory today is REHABILITATION . . . The theory is to feel sorry for the criminal and not the victim. This attitude is condoned

by the public. Society prefers to be emotional rather than realistic to the problem of crime and punishment. We have turned our heads to the deterrent value of stiff sentences for felonious crimes. Society is encouraging the criminal to break the law by remaining in a state of apathy. The criminal knows that if convicted he will never serve the sentence prescribed. He has talked to other criminals. He has already been in prison. He knows that you can even be paroled when sent to prison for life on a murder conviction. . . .

Society is weak and the criminal knows it. A young hoodlum thinks nothing of

using a gun to take someone's money. The sentence is not severe enough for armed robbery! The criminal knows what he stands to serve if caught. If he is caught with the gun before he robs someone or kills someone he does not stand to serve much time in jail.

Here again the sentence is not severe enough for carrying a concealed weapon. . . .

In many states killing a police officer is an automatic death penalty. How many murderers have gone to the gas chamber for killing a police officer in California? . . . You may say that it is part of the risk a policeman is expected to take but I ask you to remember that police

officers have a job to do and they will continue to do that job to the best of their ability with what they have to work with, but as long as society is maintaining a police force to protect life and property, it is clear logic that society should endeavor to provide law enforcement with more realistic laws pertaining to armed robbery and the carrying of concealed weapons by unauthorized persons. Clearly there is also a need more for a practical and logical approach to the probation and parole system.

I sincerely hope this letter will be published in the hope that I might awaken a few citizens to their obligation to themselves. It is time we stopped feeling sorry for the

BOAT SHOW

The 5th annual Southern California Boat Show will open its brilliant nautical run Jan. 20 at the Great Western Exhibit Center.

criminal and started feeling sorry for the victims. Will it only be when that victim is you or someone dear to you?

I am writing this letter because as I said before I knew officer Kent and I feel his loss more deeply than most of you. Officer Kent was part of a dedicated group of men of which I am a member.

ROBERT HAMMOND
Police Officer

My Neighbors



"They're mighty glad to see me after I've been away a week."



FIVE GENERATIONS . . . Mrs. Maud Hoskins, great great grandmother, holds 2-week-old Bret Clark, whose birth Nov. 27 made him the family's fifth descendant. From left: Mrs. Frank Clark, grandmother; Mrs. Glenn Wells, great grandmother; and Dick Clark, father. Gathering was held last Sunday at the home of Mrs. Wells, 2144 W. 237th St. (Herald Photo)



NEW MOUNTS . . . Torrance Police Dept. motor officers are pictured with a fleet of new Harley-Davidson motorcycles recently purchased from dealer Bob Reagan. From left: Cliff Smith, Lee Master, Ralph Bezanson, Ken Habbert, Bruce Bishop, Dick Humphry, Tom Woodriddle, Jim Kirby, Chief Percy Bennett, Capt. John Maestri, Lt. Don Nash, Sgt. Dave Cook and Reagan. (Herald Photo)



PARADE LEADER . . . Carl Jordan, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. George Jordan, 24223 Ocean Ave., has been named drum major of the Torrance All-Star high school band which will march in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 2. The South High senior was chosen as the result of try-outs at Torrance's three high schools.

FOOD GIANT Announces the "Piping Hot" Bakery

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MORRELL'S PRIDE CANNED HAMS 100% Sliceable for Your Convenience 8-lb. Can **5.89**

SMOKED LOIN PORK CHOPS **89¢** lb.
SUPER RIGHT PURE PORK SAUSAGE Skinless Links **45¢** lb.
SUPER RIGHT BRAUNSCH'GER **59¢** lb.

FRESH LEAN GROUND CHUCK **59¢** lb.
DUNGENESS CRABS 1 1/4 to 2-lb. Average **39¢** lb.
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APPLES RED DELICIOUS EXTRA FANCY **2 lbs. 29¢**
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ORANGES NEW CROP NAVEL **3 lbs. 29¢**
FANCY NATURAL DATES 5-lb. Box **1.29**

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DEL MONTE GARDEN PEAS 17-OZ. CAN **19¢**
DEL MONTE CUT GREEN BEANS 2 1-lb. Cans **43¢**

DEL MONTE PRUNE JUICE Quart Bottle **39¢**
DEL MONTE STEWED TOMATOES 1-lb. Can **19¢**

DEL MONTE Cream Style CORN 17-OZ. CAN **19¢**
DEL MONTE TOMATO CATSUP 4 20-oz. Btts. **99¢**

SCOTT TOILET TISSUE 3 Rolls **31¢**
SCOTT TISSUE FACIAL 8 200 ct. pkgs. **99¢**
400-ct. pkg. . . . 4/99c

SUNSHINE HYDROX COOKIES 3 1 1/4-oz. pkgs. **1.00**

Little Oscar and his giant Wienermobile will visit the A&P Market at 1330 El Prado, Torrance, Saturday December 17th, at 2:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS TREES

2 to 3 Foot **89¢** 3 to 4 Foot **1.39** 5 to 6 Foot **1.95**

WONG'S DINNERS SPARERIBS, SUKIYAKI or Fried Shrimp and Chowmein 11-oz. Package **69¢**
HANDY ANDY LIQUID CLEANSER 10c Off Deal Quart Can **63¢**
WALDORF TOILET TISSUE 4 Rolls **39¢**
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